DANCE BULLETIN

USA DANCER

Where The Beat and Friendly People Meet
www.usadancememphis.com

November 2019 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White

A definite temperature change arrived in the greater Memphis area as we gathered for our annual Volunteer Appreciation event this month. But the fall chill did not deter the sixty-four USA Dance members and their guest as they assembled at Advent Presbyterian Church's Life Center for fun on the dance floor. Each year we set aside one of our dances to honor the special people who work so industriously to make everything we do possible AND what better month to hold this celebration than November!

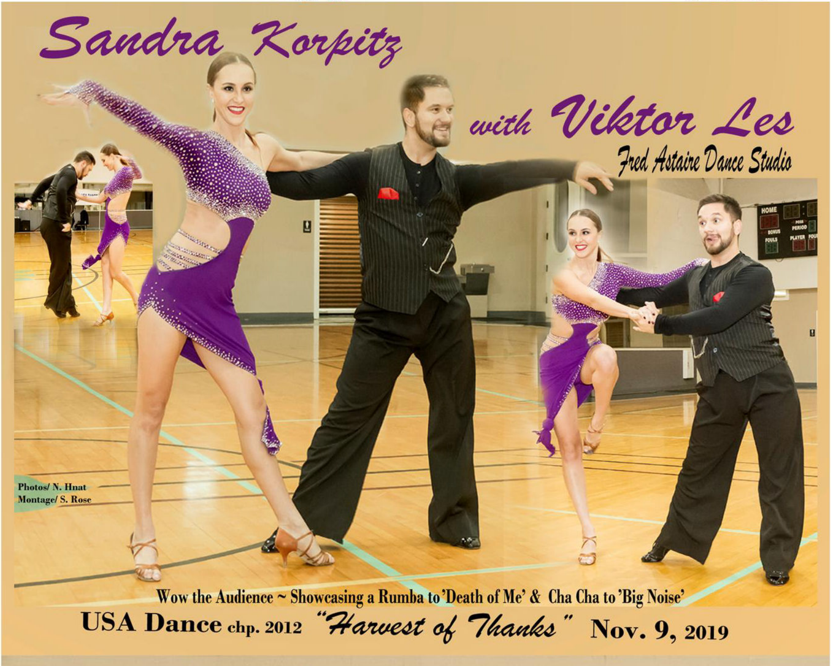
Our Thanksgiving theme for the evening was beautifully displayed on the buffet and tables around the dance floor with fall colored leaves and tablecloths, along with candles inside translucent golden glass globes. All décor was designed by the creative mind of Carole Eady. Excellent music selected by our Music Committee was floated across the floor by Tim Hnat. Tim and Nastasya Hnat also used their photography talents to record the evening's fun. Their camerawork is represented by most of the photos you see in this newsletter. These volunteers and many others were recognized and honored during the evening for their numerous contributions to our Chapter.

During our first break, Sandra Korpitz and Viktor Les, professional instructors with the Fred Astaire Dance Studio, showcased an outstanding Cha-Cha to *Big Noise* and an enticing Rumba to *Death of Me*. We thank these gifted experts for sharing their time and talent for our enjoyment.

We cannot express enough appreciation to everyone who chose to dance with us this month. It is your participation in our events which makes everything we do possible. You have our sincere gratitude for supporting our efforts to promote Ballroom dancing in the area.

Next month we will have our Holiday dance event the second Saturday of December. Make your plans and mark your calendar to join us at Advent Presbyterian Church's Life Center for our Celebration of the Season on December 14.

Dance Photos - November Dance



Sandra Korpitz

with Viktor Les

Fred Astaire Dance Studio

Photos/ N. Hnat
Montage/ S. Rose

Wow the Audience ~ Showcasing a Rumba to 'Death of Me' & Cha Cha to 'Big Noise'

USA Dance chp. 2012 "Harvest of Thanks" Nov. 9, 2019

Volunteer of the Year Pam Vaughn ~

USA Dance Chapter 2012 **"Harvest of Thanks" Nov. 9, 2019**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our Chapter and once each year we honor them at our HARVEST OF THANKS dance. Pictured above, left to right, Gail Mays, Marilyn White, Carole Eady, Timothy Hant, Jane Hester, Dena Richardson, Pam Vaughn, Sylvia Rose, and Robert White. Volunteers honored but not in the photo – Lee Bodeen, Doyle Caldwell, Dave Contreras, Doug Farris, Elissa Fine, Nastasya Hnat, Leo Koulogaines, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Kathy Linn, John Linn, Stanley Smilowitz, Judy Cole Stephens, Matt Thomson, Mike Wiggins, Howard Glatstein, and Larry Moore.

Our Hard-Working DJ

FOULS
VISITOR
USA DANCE
USA DANCE
RESTRO

RESTROOM
RESTROOM

I'm telling you, it was at least this big!

FIRESIDE ROOM
The Samba Line Dance Group

Could trouble be brewing here?

I don't care what she said,
it was not that large!

And... I'm gonna tell you one more thing about that!

Renewing USA Dance Members

Membership funds the majority of our organization's efforts and provides many benefits to dancers throughout the United States. One of the greatest benefits of membership in USA Dance is simply being an active participant in and supporter of this dynamic and effective leader, promoter, and supporter of ballroom dancing. Many members say that attending USA Dance events and association with the friends they make at those events quickly becomes a significant and very pleasurable part of their life. This applies regardless of age or whether the member is a Social Dancer, DanceSport Athlete, Student, or Junior dancer. Dancers who love to travel enjoy the instant social life they find while on vacation. Your membership in our Chapter also gives you a discount on admission to the dances held by our sister Chapters all over the country. So...when you travel take your dancing shoes and meet some new dancers.

The following USA Dance members renewed their membership since the last newsletter:

Valerie Brondo, Harry Brondo, Barbara Cook, Myrna Gammon, Jane Hester, Nastasya Hnat, Timothy Hnat, Jan Koulogianes, Suzan LaVoy, Kathy Linn, Desiree McCain, Karen Tipton, and Jack Tipton

As you plan your summer travel - be sure to check out the values on car rentals, hotels and more with the USA Dance Membership Value Program.

USA Dance has an agreement with Affinity Marketing Group to provide discounts for USA Dance members on many services and products.

To view the full list, log into your member record at https://usadance.org/Login.aspx using your user name and password. Click on the menu bar at the top of the page under "Quick Links" and select Membership Value-Affinity Program for a listing of discounts available to you as a USA Dance member on hotels, car rental, insurance, office supplies and more. We hope you take advantage of these discounts. Affinity Marketing Group and the associated providers are under contract and cannot share your personal information.

Office Depot has scheduled a webinar for USA Dance members to outline the discounts available to you.

Visit other chapters as you travel - visit our "find a chapter" page at http://usadance.org/chapters/find-a-local-chapter/ to see if there is a chapter in an area you will be visiting. Click on the name for an opportunity to email the chapter directly or visit their website. Enjoying dances hosted by other chapters is great way to get new ideas for your own chapter.

Please renew your membership before the expiration date. Once your expiration date passes, the National Membership Computer pulls your name from the active member file.

Our members are the strength of our Chapter. If you experience any problems with the online system please let any of your Board members know (usadancememphis@att.net or call 901-757-9267) promptly so that we can assist before your membership expires. We surely do not want to lose you as a part of our dance family.

New Perks for Membership

Help Your Chapter recruit New Members

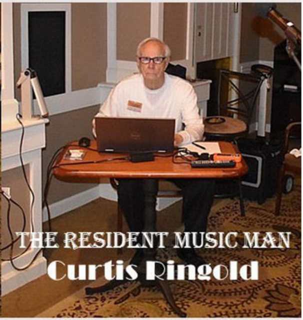
1. When a member brings or gets someone to join as a member of USA Dance, that member is granted free entry into one of our non-band dances.
2. When a member gets a member, who has been inactive for longer than 12 months, to renew their membership, that member will be granted free entry into one non-band dance.
3. When someone joins our Chapter, they receive free entry into one non-band dance after their membership is confirmed from the national database plus, they receive two free lessons at our Sunday Group Classes at Berclair Civic Center.

PEANUTS
THIS IS OUR THANKSGIVING DAY DANCE..
11-26
IT SYMBOLIZES OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL THINGS GOOD..
IT'S SORT OF A DANCE OF GLADNESS
WOODSTOCK IS GLAD THAT HE TASTES TERRIBLE WITH CRANBERRY SAUCE..
SCHULZ

USA Dance

visits

The Village At Germantown



THE RESIDENT MUSIC MAN
Curtis Ringold

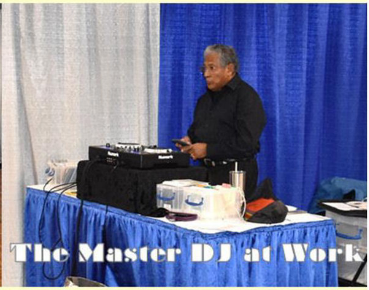
The Village at Germantown retirement community has a very active dance group, which holds classes in Ballroom Dancing and a weekly dance. They also have an in-house resident DJ, Mr. Curtis Ringold, to supply music for their activities and operate their electronic equipment. Recently USA Dance was honored by an invitation to join them for dinner and their mid-week dance. We spent a pleasant evening with this group for demonstrations of various dances, discussions about them, and joining the residents on the dance floor. Most of the photos in this article about our visit were taken from the live stream Mr. Ringold recorded of the event.

We look forward to these dancers joining the USA Dance crowd for future events.

GERMANTOWN SENIOR EXPO

A World of Fun ~ A World of Dance

USA DANCE
Greater Memphis Chapter 2012



The Master DJ at Work

USA Dance sponsored the dancing event at Germantown Senior Expo for the 5th year held on Nov.7, 2019. Members of USA Dance directing the festivities for Matthew and Carol Lybanon (who were attending their grand daughter's wedding) were: Robert White, President; Pam Vaughn, Treas.; Sylvia Rose and Jane Hester. Members: Karen Craig, Peggy Jones and Jerry Dino were seen dancing throughout the day with guests and friends in 'general dancing'. A special thanks to D.J. *Fernando Martinez* for playing all the performance and dance music for USA Dance. And Fernando *let the turntable turn* while he danced with his wife Wanda and *all* the ladies.

Non dancers and dancers alike enjoyed a little country music, some Line Dancing, some Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Waltz, Fox Trot, West Coast Swing and Bop…What FUN! Oh, and lets not forget the PIZZA – Yummmm and all this was FREE!

Attendees were treated to special Dance performances throughout the day by: The Pickering Center Line Dance Class, led by Answorth Robinson; a Tap Solo by Gail Cockrell; the Pyramid Dancers (Oriental Dancing) led by Sadiia Lamm and an Argentine Tango by Sylvia Rose and Instructor Arman Sahakyan.

We want to thank everyone who came out to perform, to dance, and to support USA Dance.

USA DANCE
Greater Memphis Chapter 2012

What Is Going On?

with

?Social Dancing!

When you take a hard look at it, it really is *just dancing*. The time I spend on the dance floor, taking dance lessons, watching videos about dancing, etc. is only a small facet of my life; however, it is a very important and valued facet. Dancing keeps me active both mentally and physically but that is an almost insignificant reason for which I dance. My main reason for this activity is that it is just great fun! I attend dances several times each week and experience great joy and fulfillment as a result. Through dancing over the years, I have developed many close friendships and an amazing number of acquaintances which I value greatly. Social dancing feeds my soul.

When I started dancing, the major Saturday dances around Memphis had weekly attendance well above the one hundred mark. Even the smaller dance events during the week at such places as the City's Senior Centers drew crowds in the 60 – 70 range. Just five or so years ago there were several regional Big Band dance events which drew large crowds of 300-plus dancers into cities like Nashville, Indianapolis, and St Louis.

Recently I have observed some unsettling signs causing me grave concerns. The last of the regional dances ceased to exist a couple of years back due to poor attendance. At the same time, attendance at the local dances began to decline significantly and has continued. One hundred twenty-five attendance at a USA Dance event was considered normal attendance just five years ago but now it seldom reaches 100. Over recent years, several major Saturday dances have folded due to low attendance. In recent weeks I attended a Saturday evening dance and the attendance only reached 19. When this dance started, they had regular attendance in the 70 range. The "during the week" dances are experiencing similar declines. It is an economic fact that a dance cannot survive if it is not supported by enough dancers.

Over the years I have come to realize the truth that *things change*. Nothing in this world is static, so perhaps Social Dancing is on the decline and will soon no longer exist. I certainly hope that isn't true. I implore those of you who feel the same to "step up" your dance attendance whenever and wherever possible. Invite friends to join you, let's pull together, REVERSE this trend, and save social dancing in our community!

Support Your Local Dance

Tid Bits of November

Evan Wellemeyer Fred Astaire Dance Studio

USA Dance Thanksgiving Class of Waltz & Cha Cha

All Photos by Sylvia Rose

There are so many ways to do the same thing…you can take small steps, or long steps, you can get it down, you can get stretch it up but just keep it going…Evan certainly does not talk the class to death, He is constantly dancing and explaining technique at the same time. *THANK YOU EVAN* for keeping Fun and Accomplishment at their highest peak. And Linda Nagy, first row, L. won a FREE class at the Halloween Party drawing. YEAH!

EVAN'S EASY
Technique with
A zig zag Turn
on the old
Water Fall!

th th That's All Folks for November

Have a Happy Thanksgiving

NO CLASSES IN DECEMBER

Join us on December 14 for USA Dance Holiday Celebration.

Evan extends an Invitation to the Fred Astaire, Holiday Party on Thursday Dec.12 to benefit the YWCA. Dancing, fun & food. (Bring an item needed for their shelter program or $10 admission – *all proceeds benefit the YWCA*)

Jorja extends an invitation to everyone to attend Ultimate Ballroom's Winter Showcase and party, a FREE event Friday, Dec.20th. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

For more info: Sylvia Rose, Group Class Dir. 901-386-2003

As the earth sank to rest until next spring,
our group of friends gathered, and the dance floor did sing.
With the year hasting to its close,
the USA Dance crowd's joy at Advent rose.
To celebrate our Volunteers for this past year,
who made our Tango, Foxtrot, and Mambo viable without fear.
We knew our evening of delight would not last,
but while it did, it was a blast.